

NEWS RELEASE

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Two Rock Island Men Charged with Crack Cocaine Conspiracy

Rock Island, IL- The United States Attorney for the Central District of Illinois, Rodger A. Heaton, announced that a federal grand jury returned an indictment late yesterday, March 16, 2006, charging two Rock Island, Illinois residents with participating in a crack cocaine conspiracy.

The indictment charges Chuck Beason, a/k/a, Chucky, age 22, of 930 6th Street, Rock Island, Illinois, and Robert Lee Beason, Jr., a/k/a, Spooky, age 22, of 1118 10th Avenue, Rock Island, Illinois, with conspiring to distribute, and possess with intent to distribute crack cocaine. The indictment alleges the two conspired together and with others to distribute crack cocaine from May 2001 to February 22, 2006. The indictment also charges Chuck Beason with six counts of distribution of crack cocaine and Robert Beason with three counts of distribution of crack cocaine. Additionally, the indictment contains a criminal forfeiture allegation seeking the forfeiture of Chuck Beason's property located at 930 6th Street, Rock Island, Illinois and a 2001 GMC Sierra pick-up truck.

According to a criminal complaint filed in the U.S. District Court in Rock Island on February 21, 2006, the charges result from evidence gathered through a historical investigation that included controlled purchases of crack cocaine from the defendants and interviews of convicted crack cocaine dealers who are cooperating in the investigation. According to the complaint, witnesses allege that Chuck Beason sold crack cocaine from his pick-up truck at various locations in Rock Island, Illinois. The affidavit filed in support of the complaint also alleges that Chuck Beason paid individuals in cash, cocaine, or a combination of both for working on his house, located at 930 6th Street in Rock Island. Further, the affidavit alleges that Robert Beason sold crack cocaine on several occasions in Rock Island.

The investigation is being conducted by the Quad Cities Federal Gang Task Force, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the Rock Island Police Department. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Sara Darrow.

The defendants were arrested on February 22, 2006, and both have been ordered detained pending trial. If convicted, the defendants each face a statutory mandatory-minimum term of 10 years in prison and up to life imprisonment. However, if a defendant has a prior felony drug conviction, the mandatory-minimum penalty increases to at least 20 years imprisonment. If convicted the defendants also each face a fine of up to \$4,000,000.

Members of the public are reminded that an indictment is merely an accusation; the defendant is presumed innocent unless proven guilty.

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